



# Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

Easing the Burden for Crime Victims

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# Fund Facts

- Created by 1977 Virginia General Assembly
- Housed in the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission
- Pays out-of-pocket expenses for innocent victims of violent crimes
- Allowable expenses include: funeral costs, out of pocket medical bills, transportation, lost wages, moving expenses, etc.
- Funded by court fees, restitution, and VOCA

# CICF Role in Mass Casualty Crime Incidents

- Respond to Family Assistance Center
- Provide financial assistance to victims and families for medical bills, funeral expenses, etc.
- Coordinate with other funding agencies to ensure resources are maximized
- Utilize local victim witness assistance programs to work with families
- Provide technical assistance and support to institutional victim

# Context

- Since 2001, Virginia has been challenged with the Pentagon Attack, Appalachian School of Law Shooting, Sniper Attacks, Anthrax Attacks, Virginia Tech shootings, etc.
- Nationally, there have been 40 school shootings in the last ten years. 36 of those in the eight years since Columbine. Over a dozen occurred in 2006-2007

# Key Concepts in Response

- Do not resist the urge to do what's "right"
- Response defines the event for victims & public
- Understand that the needs of crime victims are very different from individuals that survive other types of disasters
- Rely on experts in the field-victims taking care of victims is not a good model
- Ensure that assistance efforts have clear leadership

# Key Concepts

- If crime victims do not have their needs met in the immediate aftermath of the event, they will seek to have them met in other ways
- Individuals who are not experienced with victims of crime should not provide direct service
- Families should have a safe place to gather to receive services and information
- If possible, victims should be paired with a trained advocate

# More Key Concepts

- Hold daily meetings of responders to debrief and find solutions
- Immediately prepare for influx and money and donations
- Ensure that all on site are “credentialed” in some way
- If you don’t know something or have something—ask!

# Care for the Caregivers

- First responders cannot provide ongoing service without relief
- Working in teams is critical
- Debriefing and support services are a requirement
- “Taking care of our own” is never a good plan, wounded serving wounded is not constructive for either party
- Take it easy on yourself and colleagues



# Final Thought

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- Plan ahead!